



## Wichita Police Department Policy Manual

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

### Policy 709 – Radio Communications

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Maintained by: Field  
Services

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- 709.01 The radio system of the Wichita Police Department is a multi-trunked 800 MHz system composed of multiple channels. Radio Traffic shall be limited to Police related.

#### EMERGENCY RADIO TRAFFIC:

- 709.02 Emergency radio traffic may be requested by any authorized WPD radio user, and/or shall be declared by a 911 dispatcher, when any of the following circumstances exist:
- A. When necessary for the safety of any Department member; or
  - B. When any Priority "E" calls are dispatched;
  - C. When officers arrive on the scene of a silent entry-alarm; or
  - D. When any WPD officer is involved in a pursuit.
- 709.03 Emergency Communications personnel shall be responsible for declaring the beginning and ending of emergency radio traffic, and on which radio channel[s] it is to be observed.
- 709.04 While emergency radio traffic is in effect, radio transmissions shall be restricted to essential information only.
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- A. Transmissions shall be kept brief and shall utilize signals and codes as much as possible (see Policy 710-Radio Signals and Codes).
  - B. Non-essential communications with the 911 dispatcher shall either be delayed until emergency radio traffic is rescinded, or made by telephone while it is in effect.
  - C. Personnel whose transmissions do not fall within emergency radio traffic guidelines shall be quickly and concisely reminded of the existence of emergency radio traffic by a WPD supervisor or a 911 dispatcher.
- 709.05 When the need for it no longer exists, emergency radio traffic may be terminated by:
- A. Any field supervisor; or
  - B. Any member of the Department who is on the scene of the precipitating event; or
  - C. A dispatcher [with concurrence from a field supervisor].

#### UNIFIED COMMAND CHANNEL

- 709.06 The success of a Unified Command at the scene of any major incident is totally dependent on communication between agencies involved in the initial response. It is recognized that the best Unified Command structure involves face-to-face communication between agency supervisors from the same command post. However, instances may arise in which there are multiple command posts associated with a scene covering a large area (plane crash, tornado damage, etc.). For these reasons, Emergency Communications has created a Unified Command radio channel, which is available for use.
- 709.07 Radio Channel "1P" has been designated as a radio channel to establish a unified command at the scene of major incidents. Only command officers and commissioned supervisors will have this channel available for use.
- 709.08 The Watch Commander or Acting Watch Commander will immediately establish a command post, or respond to the command post established by another agency for major incidents. In most cases, the type of incident will be the determining factor as to who is responsible for the creation of a command post. Example; fire will be responsible for the command post on large fires, plane crashes, or incidents in which fire and/or rescue is the immediate concern. Police will be responsible for the command post for an active shooter situation or police action is the immediate concern.
- 709.09 The police commander/supervisor responsible for a police incident should make a determination on the need to establish a Unified Command and the use of the available radio channel. The commander/supervisor should request a representative from each responding agency at the command post to give direction to their personnel based on the needs reported to the command post.
- 709.10 The primary function of this available channel is to allow upper level command the ability to communicate and coordinate responses and duties when face-to-face communication is not practical or possible.

- 709.11 To initiate the use of the Unified Command channel, the incident commander will advise their operations channel dispatcher. It will then be the responsibility of that dispatcher to advise the dispatchers of the other participating agencies to have their primary command switch to the Unified Command channel. Unless specifically requested by the incident commander, the Unified Command channel will not be monitored by the emergency communications center. The radio traffic on this channel should be limited to requests between commanders to fulfill the needs of the response. The commanders at the command post should have two radios available to them; one for the primary patrol channel and one for the Unified Command channel.